



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

May 29, 2015

FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota
Attention: F-6001
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado
Attention: J-4120
Facilities Manager, Hardin, Montana
Attention: MT-300: Tom Tauscher
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6040
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /s/ Tim H. Felchle

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-39**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3632.32; Storage: 933,512 acre-feet; River Release: 6,000 cfs; Inflow: 11,330 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Inflows continue to increase into Yellowtail Dam due to increased releases out of Boysen Reservoir. Also, downstream gauging stations indicate river flows are higher than anticipated. As a result, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:

At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:

Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs (\approx 3,480 MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).

Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.

YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:

At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:

Decrease release through the river outlet works to \approx 0 cfs.

Initiate and increase release through the spillway gates to \approx 2,500 cfs.

AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:

At 0600 hour on Saturday, May 30, 2015:

Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 400 cfs (gage height = 73.17 with a 0.0 ft shift).

Increase river release to 7,000 cfs (increase gage height to 62.60 and apply a new shift of 0.0 ft).

Increase total release from the Afterbay to 7,400 cfs